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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method in a device driver for handling a failure of a primary adapter in a data processing system, the method comprising:
 - monitoring the primary adapter for the failure; and
 - responsive to detecting the failure, switching to a
- 10 standby adapter handled by the device driver.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the failure is an occurrence of at least one of a network problem and a port problem.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the primary adapter is on a first port and the standby adapter is on a second port and wherein the switching step comprises:
 - switching from the first port to the second port to
- 20 switch to the standby adapter.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the first port is assigned an active media access control address prior to a switch from the primary adapter to the standby adapter
- 25 and wherein the switch from the first port to the second port is made by assigning the second port to an active media access control address.

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5. The method of claim 3 further comprising:
initiating a soft reset of the first port.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the primary adapter
5 is a network adapter.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the primary adapter
is a graphics adapter.

10 8. A data processing system for handling a failure of a
primary adapter in a data processing system, the data
processing system comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring the primary adapter
for the failure; and

15 switching means for switching to a standby adapter
handled by the device driver responsive to detecting the
failure.

9. The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the
20 failure is an occurrence of at least one of a network
problem and a port problem.

10. The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the
primary adapter is on a first port and the standby
25 adapter is on a second port and wherein the switching
means comprises:

means for switching from the first port to the
second port to switch to the standby adapter.

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11. The data processing system of claim 10, wherein the first port is assigned an active media access control address prior to a switch from the primary adapter to the standby adapter and wherein the switch from the first
5 port to the second port is made by assigning the second port to an active media access control address.

12. The data processing system of claim 10 further comprising:
10 initiating means for initiating a soft reset of the first port.

13. The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the primary adapter is a network adapter.

14. The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the primary adapter is a graphics adapter.

15. A computer program product in a computer readable
20 medium for handling a failure of a primary adapter in a data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for monitoring the primary adapter for the failure; and
25 second instructions for switching to a standby adapter handled by the device driver responsive to detecting the failure.

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16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the failure is an occurrence of at least one of a network problem and a port problem.

5 17. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the primary adapter is on a first port and the standby adapter is on a second port and wherein the second instructions comprise:

sub-instructions for switching from the first port
10 to the second port to switch to the standby adapter.

18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the first port is assigned an active media access control address prior to a switch from the primary adapter to the
15 standby adapter and wherein the switch from the first port to the second port is made by assigning the second port to an active media access control address.

19. The computer program product of claim 17 further
20 comprising:

fourth instructions for initiating a soft reset of the first port.

20. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein
25 the primary adapter is a network adapter.

21. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the primary adapter is a graphics adapter.

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22. A server data processing for obtaining cultural context information from a client, the server data processing system comprising:

- a bus system;
 - 5 a communications unit connected to the bus system;
 - a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and
 - a processing unit connected to the bus system,
- 10 wherein the processing unit executes instructions for a device driver to monitor the primary adapter for the failure and, switch to a standby adapter handled by the device driver in response to detecting the failure.